MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

9 DECEMBER 1982

Lebanon

Ghali Visit -- After meeting with President Amin al-Jumayyil, Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali said in remarks broadcast by Beirut radio that the message he conveyed to Al-Jumayyil had affirmed Egypt's support for Lebanon, for the withdrawal of all foreign forces and for the consolidation of reconciliation in Lebanon. Ghali said he would convey a reply message from Al-Jumayyil to Egypt's President Husni Mubarak. Egyptian sources cited by Radio Monte Carlo disclosed that Egypt will respond to any request by the Lebanese Government for rebuilding Lebanon or providing the help of Egyptian experts in all fields of training. In remarks broadcast by Beirut radio, Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan said Ghali's visit aimed at exploring the possibility of Egyptian assistance to Lebanon at all levels in face of the current impasse over negotiations with Israel.

The Egyptian delegation, which included Foreign Ministry First Under Secretary Usaman al-Baz as well as Ghali, subsequently flew to Jordan, INA radio noted.

Security Situation -- IDF and Lebanese Army representatives have concluded that a shooting incident in Beirut in which an IDF soldier was wounded and two Lebanese soldiers were killed was a tragic accident, IDF radio reported. A "comprehensive investigation" conducted by both sides found that the clash occurred when a Lebanese soldier accidentally fired at an IDF vehicle; the Israelis thought they were under attack and returned fire, killing two Lebanese. This conclusion coincided with the account of the incident provided earlier by the IDF spokesman in a statement reported by IDF radio. However, Beirut radio asserted that the clash started when Israeli vehicles ignored Lebanese attempts to prevent them crossing a private Ministry of Defense road. The Lebanese were obliged to open fire, the radio said, and a 15-minute gun battle ensued.

Meanwhile, the IDF enforced strict security measures in Sidon following the discovery of the bodies of two IDF soldiers, Beirut radio reported. The Israelis detained many people in their hunt for fedayeen in the area, the radio said. The radio also reported that 5 people were killed and 60 were wounded in further factional clashes in the northern city of Tripoli. The clashes continued on 9 December, the radio noted.

PLO

Relations With Syria -- While addressing Palestinian fighters in Algeria, Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf strongly attacked Syria and vehemently defended PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, Radio Monte Carlo revealed. Khalaf criticized Syria for not providing the agreed upon 40,000 troops for the war in Lebanon and claimed that even though Pakistan placed its air force and all of its capabilities at Syria's disposal, the offer was not used, the radio added. Khalaf asserted that Algeria had also offered its assistance through Syria.

The rift between Fatah and Syria is widening, according to Jerusalem radio. With the assistance of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command and As-Sa'iqah, the Syrian Army recently imposed harsh restrictions on Fatah members in northern Lebanon and Al-Biqa', the radio reported.

'Arafat to Jordan -- The Amman daily AR-RA'Y reported on 9 December that PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat is expected to arrive in Amman "next Saturday."

Israel

HA'ARETZ published details of 35 new urban settlements planned for the West Bank. The settlements, which will be established by political, religious and private organizations, will comprise 22,500 apartments and accommodate 70,000 settlers.

Jordan

Amman television announced on 7 December that its transmissions can now be seen in "northern Palestine," southern Syria, Al-Biqa' and southern Lebanon as a result of the opening of a new relay station.

Iran-Iraq War

Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, Hashemi-Rafsanjani Remarks -- Following the 8 December Cabinet meeting, Iranian Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi asserted in an interview with Tehran radio that Iran has the power to attack Iraq along the entire length of its common border and "shall do so at the right time" in order to "deal the final blows." Questioned on foreign reports that Iran is preparing a new peace proposal, the prime minister said: "Nobody in Iran has any knowledge of this news in any depth." Anyone who has new proposals should contact Iran, but "bringing the same old message" cannot be in the interests of regional peace, he stressed.

Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani likewise said in an interview with the radio that since Iran's announcement that no one should come to Iran to mediate unless they have fresh proposals, "we have not been inconvenienced any further." Asked about procedures for returning very young Iranian POW's, he said Iran would welcome their return under International Red Cross auspices and noted that the authorities have asked mobilization centers and the Guards Corps not to send children below the age of consent to the front.

Military Activities -- More than 120 Iraqis were killed in operations on various fronts on 7 December, a military communique broadcast by Tehran radio reported. Iraqi traffic was halted on the Al-Faw-Basra road and Iranian forces consolidated their positions while expanding their activities on every front, the communique claimed. A military communique transmitted by INA reported that 52 Iranians were killed on various fronts during 7-8 December clashes.

DAILY REPORT

South Asia

Vol VIII No 237 *9 December 1982*

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW 1

BANGLADESH

Editorial on Ershad's Recent PRC Visit D 1
[THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER 6 Dec]

INDIA

Vietnamese Foreign Minister To Arrive 16 Dec E 1
USSR Deputy Energy Minister, Delegation Arrive E 1
Health Minister Receives Chinese Delegation E 1
Professor on Scientific Exchanges With PRC E 1
Punjab Government Orders Release of All Akalis E 1

PAKISTAN

Government Arrests MRD Leader 8 December [AFP] F 1
Iranian Envoy on Further Oil supply, Gulf War F 1
[DAWN 3 Dec]

OTHER COUNTRIES

SRI LANKA

Presidential Security Tightened; Shootings Cited G 1
[AFP]

IRAN

Majlis Speaker Confers With Libyan Officials I 1
Prime Minister Comments on Peace Proposal I 2
Rafsanjani on Supreme Defense Council Session I 3
Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,146 I 5
Iraqi Shelling of Sar-e Pol-e Zahab Cited I 5
DPRK Trade Delegation Arrives for Talks I 6
Fishing Cooperation I 6
Deputy Ministers Meet I 6
'Asgar-Owladi Remarks I 6
Meeting With Nabavi I 7
Velayati Comments I 7
Talks With Musavi I 8
Clandestine Reports ROK Experts in Shiraz [Radio Iran] I 8
Velayati Receives Outgoing Chinese Ambassador I 8
Majlis Speaker Meets With Envoys 5 December I 9
Reports on Afghan Mujahidin Activities I 9
28 Nov Clash I 9
Nangarhar Province Attack I 9

EDITORIAL ON ERSHAD'S RECENT PRC VISIT

BK091158 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 6 Dec 82 p 5

[Editorial: "Bilateral Relations"]

[Text] Chief Martial Law Administrator [CMLA] Lt General H.M. Ershad returned home Saturday completing his 6-day official visit to China.

The CMLA described his visit as "successful and satisfactory." The frank and fruitful talks he had with top-ranking Chinese leaders included nearly all bilateral, regional and global issues of interest to Bangladesh and China, and the unanimity of views characterising the exchanges marked not only the background of traditional friendship and mutual understanding between the two countries but also pointed to the way such ties would develop in the days to come.

Commenting on such prospects, General Ershad observed that he and his country had full "trust in China" and that the latter had assured all possible help to Bangladesh "in times of need." In fact over the past years a viable base of cooperation and friendly relations has been built up between the two countries through reciprocity and understanding in diplomatic and other areas.

The CMLA's 6-day visit, devoted to meaningful exchanges and discussion of problems, both internal and external, has gone far to strengthen that base and opened new vistas of more expansive cooperation and bilateral action in economic and other fields.

The pragmatic aspect of the exchanges is reflected in such agreements as relate to the formation of a joint economic commission and the soft-term loan ($12.5 million) promised by China to Bangladesh. It need hardly be said that China, one of Bangladesh's neighbours in this region and one of the most technologically advanced countries of the same, is in a position to help, both by cooperation and example, the on-going development process of Bangladesh. And the restrengthened relations between the two countries augur remarkably well for all time to come. In the economic field particularly, the scope and opportunity is immense for joint ventures and exploration and exploitation of the hitherto untapped and ill-used resources of the country. Chinese expertise and cooperation, once made available for such purposes, particularly along technological lines, are expected to be one of the most important contributions to the economy of Bangladesh.

In such contexts General Ershad disarmed possible fears of any unfavourable impact on his country's relations with her other neighbours, nor, as he visualised, could these developments in China-Bangladesh relations stand in the way of friendly relations with India, nor prejudice a just and amicable settlement of outstanding issues, including Farakka, with the latter. These assurances were given by him in the course of his answers to questions from newsmen on his arrival at the Zia International Airport.

The CMLA also referred to Bangladesh's diplomatic stance in regard to such problems as Middle East, Afghanistan and Kampuchea. The Kampuchea issue received special mention as Bangladesh accorded recognition to the Democratic Government of Kampuchea and decided to establish diplomatic relations with it. This was done, as he explained, in accordance with the principles on which Bangladesh's foreign policy is based.

To symbolise the growing process of relations between the two friendly countries a viable symbol has been proposed by the CMLA, namely, a "monument of friendship"; which is obviously designed to emphasise the dimensions of increasing bilateral friendship between Bangladesh and China and the latter's assurances of continuing support and assitance to Bangladesh and its socioeconomic development.

VIETNAMESE FOREIGN MINISTER TO ARRIVE 16 DEC

BK091048 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0903 GMT 9 Dec 82

[Text] Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach will arrive in New Delhi on 16 December to have "broad based talks" with his Indian counterpart on economic and technological cooperation between the two countries.

Groundwork for the ministerial talks had been prepared by a Vietnamese official team which had held discussions with Indian officials regarding formation of an Indo-Vietnam joint commission for overall management of cooperation between the two countries. While the Vietnamese team was led by Dau Ngoc Xuan, vice chairman of the Vietnamese State Planning Commission, K.S. Bajpai, secretary in the External Affairs Ministry, led the Indian side.

USSR DEPUTY ENERGY MINISTER, DELEGATION ARRIVE

BK081345 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 8 Dec 82

[Text] A five-member Soviet delegation arrived in New Delhi today to attend the second meeting of the Indo-Soviet working group on energy. It is led by Soviet Deputy Minister for Energy N.A. Lopatin. The working group is meeting tomorrow to draw up a joint program of cooperation for the next 3 years.

HEALTH MINISTER RECEIVES CHINESE DELEGATION

BK090333 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 9 Dec 82

[Text] The five-member Chinese health delegation led by Vice Minister of Health Tan Yunhe called on Health Minister B. Shankaranand in New Delhi yesterday. Shankaranand told the delegation about the steps taken by India to implement the Alma-Ata agreement on population. The delegation also met the officials of the Health Ministry and discussed subjects of common interest.

PROFESSOR ON SCIENTIFIC EXCHANGES WITH PRC

BK050933 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 5 Dec 82

[Text] India and China are to increase scientific exchanges in the coming years. This has been stated by Professor N.G.K. Menon in New Delhi after his return from a 12-day visit to China. He led an eight-member delegation, which visited 24 research institutes in the Chinese cities of Beijing, Ghangzhou, Nanjing and Shanghai.

Professor Menon told PTI that following the visit the Indian National Science Academy and the Chinese Academy of Sciences have agreed to exchange scientific journals and scientists to work in selected areas. Professor Menon said the Chinese are genuinely interested in improving scientific ties with India.

PUNJAB GOVERNMENT ORDERS RELEASE OF ALL AKALIS

BK071425 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 7 Dec 82

[Text] The Punjab Government has issued orders for the release of all the Akalis who have been detained. They were detained following an announcement of a morcha [agitation] in the capital during the Asian games.

GOVERNMENT ARRESTS MRD LEADER 8 DECEMBER

BK081331 Hong Kong AFP in English 1246 GMT 8 Dec 82

[Text] Karachi, Dec 8 (AFP) -- Fatehyab Ali Khan, chief of the ultra-left Mazdood-Kissan (Labour-Farmer) Party and a prominent leader of the eight-party Movement for Restoration of Democracy (MRD), was arrested by the martial law government at his home here today.

Official sources said Mr Ali Khan, who has been touring the country to mobilise support for the MRD, is detained for 30 days under the maintenance of public order ordinance.

Last week Mr Ali Khan made speeches bitterly criticising the military regime of President Mohammad Ziaul Haq, now visiting the United States, for perpetuating martial law and refusing to hold general elections and restore democracy.

IRANIAN ENVOY ON FURTHER OIL SUPPLY, GULF WAR

GF041158 Karachi DAWN in English 3 Dec 82 p 7

[Text] Islamabad, Dec 2 -- Mr 'Abbas Zamani Abu Sharif, Iranian ambassador, said here on Wednesday that Iran would be happy to supply more crude to Pakistan after the current agreement for supply of 10,000 barrels per day ended on expiry of one-year period.

The ambassador was asked to comment on reported OPEC statement complaining against low prices being charged by Iran for crude exports. Iran and Pakistan, Mr Abu Sharif said, were brothers and the price of commodities were not all that important while meeting each other's needs.

The ambassador addressed a press conference which was originally called for the visiting Iranian commerce minister, Mr Habibollah 'Askar-Owladi. Mr 'Askar-Owladi, who spent the whole day visiting the Afghan refugee camps near Peshawar, was, however, unable to address the press as he was reportedly indisposed on return from Peshawar later in the evening.

Mr Abu Sharif, who was in Tehran during the visit of Pakistan's foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, for talks with the Iranian foreign minister, Mr Velayati, said that Pakistan's foreign minister had held talks on international matters of mutual interest and bilateral relations. The visit was fruitful and likely to strengthen relations between the two countries, he added.

About the Iran-Iraq war, Mr Abu Sharif said that Iran was still engaged in ousting the aggressor forces which were entrenched on high mountains in Iranian territory. For that reason Iranian forces were at times obliged to cross into Iraqi territory and surround the mountains in order to force the agressors to vacate their positions, he said. It was important to identify the aggressor and arrange for compensation for losses suffered by the people through destruction of cities and villages, before peace could be restored in the area.

SRI LANKA

PRESIDFNTIAL SECURITY TIGHTENED; SHOOTINGS CITED

BK040818 Hong Kong AFP in English 0754 GMT 4 Dec 82

[Text] Colombo, Dec, 4 (AFP) -- Security was tightened in the east coast where President Junius Jayewardene was due today, following yesterday's theft of a large quantity of detonators from government stores in Batticoloa, police announced today.

Road blocks were set up and vehicles were searched by the police. Army units moved in to secure the area where President Jayewardene is to address a rally on the December 22 national referedum.

The theft of over 800 detonators from the Highways Department was thought to be the work of militant Tamil Separatists agitating for an autonomous Tamil state of "Eelam".

Meanwhile, in the north, a politician of the ruling United National Party (UNP) was shot and seriously wounded by five youths also suspected to be Tamil separatists, published reports said today.

The politician, S.C. Chandrasekeran, was admitted to the hospital with gun shot wounds in the stomach. He was shot in his residence by five youths arriving on bicycles.

Another northern politician was shot dead by a group of youth who had arrived on bicycles last month, a hallmark of separatist operations.

In another development in the north the body of a 30-year-old man shot through the head was found yesterday some 14 miles from the northern capital of Jaffana.

The dead man, Karthigesu Velyuthapillai, had previously been in police custody for militant activities.

Police believe him to be a victim of a continuing war between the two separatist groups, whose leaders were involved in a shoot-out in Madras, South India, earlier this year.

MAJLIS SPEAKER CONFERS WITH LIBYAN OFFICIALS

GF090828 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 9 Dec 82

[Text] According to IRNA, 'Abd al-'Ubaydi, secretary of the Libyan Foreign Liaison Committee, and that country's minister of information, in continuation of their visit to our country last night met and conferred with Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

Our country's Foreign Affairs Minister Velayati and Libyan Ambassador in Tehran Sa'd Mudbir also were present at this meeting.

'Abd al-'Ubaydi first conveyed the friendly message of Colonel al-Qadhdhafi to Hashemi-Rafsanjani and emphasized the increased cooperation in different fields between his country and the Islamic Republic of Iran. He said: We are prepared to have continuous cooperation with you against the imposed war and the plots of the reactionary Arab countries. We are convinced that the aim of this war imposed on the Islamic Republic of Iran was simply to struggle against the Islamic revolution and to halt its export outside the borders. This war was started by America and the reactionary Arabs, but we will remain on the side of right.

The secretary of the Libyan Committee for Foreign Liaison, while discussing internal conditions in Iraq, said: We are certain Saddam is unable to resist any new Iranian blows and attacks and the hatred and [word indistinct] of the nation of Iraq for Saddam's regime has reached such an extent that it is prepared to get rid of the domination of this infidel regime which is attached neither to the Islam religion nor the Arab nation. The secretary of the Libyan Foreign Liaison Committee added: The least retaliation for Saddam, who has caused so much bloodshed is his annihilation. With regard to this imposed war, we are prepared to stand by the side of the Islamic Republic of Iran by all possible means.

At the end of his talk, he extended an invitation to the Majlis speaker to visit his country.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani then expressed gratitude for the stand of the Libyan Government on the Zionist regime of Iraq's invasion of the Islamic country of Iran: In the current year after the revolution, we have seen your country and your leader stand beside us always and one of the marks of this company is the public disgrace of Saddam in his claims that this war is a Sunni-Shi'ite and Fars-Arab conflict.

The Majlis speaker then pointed out the instability of the Zionist government of Iraq: The current days are indicative of Iraq's political and military situation, which proves that Saddam and the Ba'thist regime of Iraq are not able to continue their rule. We prefer that the Ba'thist regime be annihilated so that the nation of Iraq can get rid of the burden of this infidel party. Also, it must be proved to the world that the war criminal will face his fate.

The speaker of the Islamic Majlis, at the end of his address to the secretary of the Libyan Foreign Liaison Committee, stated: We are hopeful that constructive and definite executive measures can be taken in the political, economic, cultural, and military fields. Thus, I propose that a definite committee be formed to adopt joint policies for the development of practical scopes.

PRIME MINISTER COMMENTS ON PEACE PROPOSAL

LD081336 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Dec 82

[Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi interview with unidentified correspondent at the end of the 8 December Cabinet session -- recorded]

[Excerpts] [Question] Mr Musavi, what issues were discussed and what decisions were made in today's Cabinet session?

[Answer] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. In this session, the elections were discussed again. Reports were submitted from various parts of the country, showing the preparedness of the people to participate in the elections.

[Question] Since the elections for the Council of Experts and the Majlis are to be held soon, do you have a message to the nation in this connection?

[Answer] Our great nation always has performed its duty in sensitive situations and with its actions has disheartened the enemies. The Council of Experts election is a great step for the establishment and strengthening of the system of the Islamic Republic. Naturally, our alert and aware nation will perform its divine duty and thus dishearten our enemies. We can see extensive efforts in Western mass media to undermine the election; this shows the importance of forming the Council of Experts. Even before it is formed, our enemies are frightened and disheartened. Naturally, with the formation of this council, many of the plots of the superpowers and their lackeys throughout the world will be neutralized and the continuation of this revolution and its Islamic identity will be guaranteed, God willing.

[Question] The next OPEC session will be held soon. What are the Islamic Republic of Iran's plans for that conference?

[Answer] Usually in OPEC conferences, we defend the rights of the oppressed, be they oil exporters or consumers. We declared from the start that safeguarding the Islamic revolution is the most important issue for us. We are certain that all America's efforts are directed at destroying the Islamic revolution. The (?realization) of this principle certainly would affect our decisions, our stand regarding price, the level of oil exports and so forth.

[Question] Foreign mass media have made comments on the war -- that Iran is preparing a new peace proposal. Do you have any comments on this?

[Answer] We have read these reports. The interesting point is that nobody in Iran has any knowledge of this news in any depth. We do know under what pretext these matters are raised: It is probably to put pressure on us in the struggle against the Ba'thist, 'Atlaqist regime or to weaken our resolve to crush the aggressor. We have repeatedly declared that such propaganda would have no effect on our course of action. Regarding peace delegations, we have said if they have new proposals for the realizations of our conditions and rights, they could contact us. Comings or goings bringing the same old message cannot be in the interests of peace in the region.

[Question] Iraq again yesterday bombarded one of our cities and killed or injured a number of people. What are the future plans of the combatants of Islam to crush the Iraqi Government and how far will they advance?

[Answer] Iraq recently made another mistake and let in a number of foreign reporters. They reported on the hopelessness of the internal situation of Saddam's regime.

We have our own plans. We have the power to attack Iraq along the whole length of our common border. We shall do so at the right time and shall deal the final blows to that regime, God willing.

[Question] Thank you.

RAFSANJANI ON SUPREME DEFENSE COUNCIL SESSION

LD082318 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 8 Dec 82

[Excerpts] The Supreme Defense Council met this evening under the chairmanship of Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, president of the republic and president of the Supreme Defense Council.

Participants in this session were: Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the imam's representative on this council; Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi; Brigadier General Zahirnezhad, chief of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran; Defense Minister Colonel Salimi; Mohsen Reza'i, commander in chief of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps; Rafiqdust, minister of Islamic Revolution Guards Corps; Sham'khani, deputy commander of the Guards Corps; and Kharrazi, supervisor of the war propaganda headquarters.

During this session, latest reports from the battlefronts and sociopolitical developments in the region were studied. The meeting discussed the requirements of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran; future operations were reviewed and the necessary decisions were made.

At the end of the meeting, our correspondent was granted an interview by Hashemi-Rafsanjani:

[Begin recording] [Question] Mr Hashemi, what issues were raised and what decisions were made in tonight's session of the Supreme Defense Council?

[Answer] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Normally, we try to arrange for the Supreme Defense Council to meet once a week. Of course, some weeks we may hold more than one session and other weeks we may not have any urgent issues to discuss. We review current war issues, the army's requirements, political developments relating to the war and the like and make decisions. As usual, tonight the situation on the fronts, the situation in Kordestan, future operations, requirements and purchases were discussed and an interesting report was submitted by the defense minister on the successes achieved in the field of repairing precision war equipment. That was all.

[Question] As you know, the city of Gilan-e Gharb has been bombed by the Iraqi Ba'thist regime. Could you tell us whether this issue was raised in this session and also your opinion on this matter?

[Answer] It was not particularly a topic for discussion but Iraq's phony, harassing and showy operations were discussed in general. Iraq cannot normally do anything on the ground. When it receives a blow, it is compelled to have some news for the people, the people of the region, (?the reactionaries) and so on. Thus, it attacks a city or, it it can, it attacks a ship or carries out the kind of actions it has carried out so far. Of course, we have made a decision as to how to respond so that the Iraqis will not want to do this sort of thing any more.

[Question] Representatives of the Iraqi POW's have had a meeting with you. Could you tell us what issues were raised in this meeting and what their demands were?

[Answer] I suppose the relevent news has been reported. The main thing they had to say was that a large number of POW's are prepared to cooperate with the Islamic Republic.

They said: We are a large force here; it is a pity that this force is unused. Give us something to do, some technical job or some military work on the front. Of course, we said: As far as we are concerned, according to international regulations, we are not allowed to use prisoners on the front or to keep them in war zones. We cannot do this but if the Iraqis want to [word indistinct] their forces and to use them against Saddam [words indistinct] within the framework of international regulations [words indistinct].

[Question] Was a decision made on their working in industrial enterprises or whether they will do ordinary jobs?

[Answer] We have not made a decision yet. Of course, taking everything into account, I think if they want to do something, it would be logical to use this great force either inside the camps or nearby.

[Question] There has been some talk in connection with the mediation efforts of Algeria and the United Arab Emirates. Will you please tell us what is our position with regard to this issue and what stand should the people adopt?

[Answer] No particular question was raised. Fortunately, since the day we announced that no one should come to Iran for mediation if they have no fresh proposals, we have not been inconvenienced any further. Well, there has been no fresh proposal. Therefore, no one has come and no question has been (?raised on mediation).

[Question] About the handover of the very young Iranian POW's, Iraq has announced that it is ready to return them to Iran via the Socialist state of France. Would you please tell us whether the Supreme Defense Council has decided in this connection and, in general, what will our position be with regard to this issue?

[Answer] This is another demagogical step taken by Iraq. It is lying. Previously a question was raised about exchange of POW's families. We prepared ourselves, established a headquarters and planned a program, but the Iraqis departed from the idea. And now they have made this remark and particularly have suggested France. They want to make some concessions to France because that country has given more help to Iraq recently. They want to give good marks to France as a mediator. This is the task of the Red Cross, which is usually in charge of such matters. We know France has no good intentions and is hoping to take propaganda advantage of this problem. Therefore, we said: If Iraq has made such plans, then it can go through the Red Cross and we will welcome the idea. Why should we not welcome such an idea? But is is a lie; Iraq is telling lies. It wants to raise the issue of children being sent to the front. Well, you are aware that in Iran, as the imam has mentioned and I also said during Friday prayers, we have asked the mobilization centers and the Guards Corps not to send children below the age of consent to the front. Sometimes, they (?might) follow their father or a (?guardian). I do not know if such persons have been taken prisoner. Iraq once again has raised the point that children are sent to the fronts in Iran.

[Question] About the operations of the U.S. Rapid Deployment Forces in the region and their secret arrival in the region, what is your (?interpretation)?

[Answer] Well, it is a clear (?interpretation): Every time the U.S. agents in the region are panic-stricken, the United States tries to boost their morale. This is the way to boost their morale. This is their weapon for a rainy day. This is one of the United States' very clumsy deeds.

A superpower degrades itself so much in order to frighten the Islamic Republic of Iran. It thinks the Islamic Republic can be frightened with such deeds. It is staging a maneuver (?near) our country. What could the United States, with all its forces, do in Vietnam? What have the Soviets achieved next door in Afghanistan? Will we be frightened by such maneuvers? We also announced earlier that we prefer to engage directly with the United States. We would rather face them ourselves instead of encouraging the Iraqi Muslims or Muslims from other countries to fight against the United States. When our nation began its struggle against the United States, it prepared itself for such deeds. We are prepared for everything. The United States' past record in Vietnam, El Salvador and other places shows that its moves will not frighten the combative people of the world. [end recording]

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE NO 1,146

LD081726 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Dec 82

[Communique No 1,146 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. The strong combatants of Islam are continuing their efforts to route and annihilate the aggressive enemy on all battlefronts. In the Moharram operational zone and the southern fronts yesterday, as a result of our units' fire 8 enemy trenches, 1 106-mm rifle emplacement and 1 observation tower were destroyed and 120 Iraqi soldiers were killed. Enemy vehicular traffic also was halted on the Al-Faw-Basra road.

The coastal units of the Gendarmerie of the Islamic Republic of Iran opened fire on enemy position on the other side of the Arvand Rud. They destroyed several weapon emplacements of the Ba'thist mercenaries and killed or wounded a number of troops.

In the Muslim ibn 'Aqil operational zone and on the western fronts, sporadic exchanges of fire were going on. The Saddamist forces suffered the following logistic losses: destruction of five mortars and two personnel carrying vehicles; one enemy tank damaged; and one trailer carrying ammunition set on fire.

Our combative units on every front are consolidating and stabilizing their positions, expanding their activities, still holding the initiative, and enjoying fire superiority.

[Signed] The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

IRAQI SHELLING OF SAR-E POL-E ZAHAB CITED

LD081724 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Dec 82

[Text] IRNA reports that the aggressive enemy yesterday pounded Sar-e Pol-e Zahab with long-range artillery for 1 hour. The enemy shelling was so intense that members of the reconstruction crusade, who are rebuilding the city, were unable to remain in the city. For the umpteenth time, the aggressive enemy has moved its artillery and katyushas in the Tang-e Hammam and (Tang-e Bishegan) to shell Sar-e Pol-e Zahab and prevent reconstruction work in the city.

It should be pointed out that the proud city of Sar-e Pol-e Zahab is being shelled at a time when the mouthpieces of Baghdad's regime claim they have fully withdrawn from the territory of our Islamic homeland.

DPRK TRADE DELEGATION ARRIVES FOR TALKS

LD211818 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 21 Nov 82

[Text] A DPRK trade and economic delegation led by that country's foreign trade minister has traveled to Iran to meet with Minister of Heavy Industries Nabavi and a trade and economic delegation of our country. The Central News Unit reports that at this meeting a number of Foreign Ministry officials also were present. Both sides expressed interest in expanding economic relations between the two countries. Different trade ventures such as the sale of pylons and zinc and lead mills, each with a 10,000-ton capacity, ironware and fertilizers from the DPRK also were discussed.

Fishing Cooperation

GF221833 Tehran IRNA in English 1650 GMT 22 Nov 82

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 22, IRNA -- Iranian and DPRK officials both expressed their willingness to expand cooperation in fishing activities.

In a meeting today with Iranian Deputy Agriculture Minister, Mohammad Mir-Mohammad-Sadeqi, the visiting deputy foreign trade minister of the People's Democratic Republic of Korea, [?Pang T'ae-yul], said that the two countries had many areas in which they could expand their relations.

Concerning Iran's fishing activities, the DPRK official said that although his country currently had two fishing vessels in the Persian Gulf waters under a contract signed with Iran, cooperation in this field could grow even more.

Also the Iranian deputy agriculture minister said that the Islamic Republic was aiming at catching 250,000 tons of fish every year, up from the current 40,000 tons, by the next five years. To reach this goal, Sadeqi said that the present fishing contract with the DPRK could be good basis for future contracts.

Deputy Ministers Meet

LD232140 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Nov 82

[Text] The DPRK deputy foreign trade minister met this morning with the Iranian deputy minister of commerce in charge of foreign trade. They discussed commercial relations between the two countries. The DPRK deputy foreign trade minister, while praising Iran's Islamic revolution under the leadership of Imam Khomeyni, expresses his support for the legitimate struggles of the Iranian people against imperialism until final victory. Referring to the expansion of relations between the two countries on the basis of mutual interests, he said: It is possible that in the early stages, the discussions concerning purchases may not produce the desired results. However, with the gradual acquaintance by each side with the other's productions, exchanges will be greatly expanded and will be continued.

'Asgar-Owladi Remarks

LD271408 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Nov 82

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, Choe Chong-kun, North Korean foreign trade minister and head of an economic delegation currently visiting our country, this morning met with Commerce Minister 'Asgar-Owladi Mosalman.

During this meeting, the North Korean foreign trade minister said: I am delighted to say that the people of your country -- with full vigilance and under the leadership of Imam Khomeyni -- have been able to gain victories in the war against imperialism. I must promise you that our nation and government will always support you. He added: I have observed independence and a new life in your country. I am glad to say that we regard you as one of our best friends and hope that this friendship will last forever.

Referring to the necessity of further expanding economic and trade relations between the two countries, the North Korean minister of foreign trade asked for an acceleration of the work of the Iranian and North Korean economic delegations and for the removal of any future problems. [sentence as heard]

'Asgar-Owladi Mosalman replied: A new chapter has begun in the relations between Iran and North Korea. I hope the economic and trade relations between the two countries will be strengthened on the bases of human justice and of talks between our brothers and our governments in both Korea and Iran. We are determined to expand our relations with you toward perfection in the best possible manner. He added: In our international economic and trade relations, we are trying to omit the extra international middlemen and to help those nations producing the goods. We are trying to buy from those producers who are our friends. This is an economic and commercial lesson we have learned from the Islamic revolution.

According to our correspondent, at the conclusion of this meeting, the North Korean minister of foreign trade invited 'Asgar-Owladi Mosalman to visit his country. The North Korean minister of foreign trade, who has come to Iran to hold talks with economic officials in our country, will stay in Iran until the end of this week.

Meeting With Nabavi

LD281310 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Nov 82

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that the North Korean trade minister, who heads a delegation currently visiting our country, today together with some of the delegates conferred with Heavy Industries Minister Behzad Nabavi.

At this meeting, the North Korean trade minister referred to the struggles of the martyr-nurturing Iranian nation for the achievement of the Islamic revolution ideas, expressing his country's interest in the expansion of economic relations with Iran.

Nabavi then thanked him and expressed his interest in the expansion of relations: We believe expansion of relations must be bilateral and balanced. He said: To implement correctly the protocol signed by the two countries, they must endeavor to overcome the difficulties.

Velayati Comments

LD301910 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 30 Nov 82

[Text] DPRK Foreign Trade Minister Choe Chong-kun this afternoon met with Foreign Affairs Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati. The Central News Unit reports that, during this meeting, which was also attended by the deputy minister of foreign affairs, discussions were held on the expansion of political, economic and commercial relations.

During the meeting, Velayati said: While both of our countries are fighting against American imperialism, we should also enjoy each other's mutual assistance. He added: Our attempts to preserve our independence can achieve the desired results, despite the difficulties and consequences, provided that we support each other.

The DPRK foreign trade minister emphasized Velayati's remarks and praised the attempts of the people and the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran to safeguard their independence. He asked for an expansion of bilateral relations, a solution to the difficulties and the provision of facilities for bilateral commercial relations.

Talks With Musavi

LD011842 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 1 Dec 82

[Text] The North Korean trade minister met and had talks with Mir-Hoseyn Musavi this afternoon. According to a Central News Unit report, the meeting also was attended by the under secretary of the Ministry of Commerce and by the director general for economic affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The prime minister, while referring to U.S. interventions in East Asia, particularly the trouble it has caused North Korea, explained our country's position in the region, the danger of foreign intervention in the Indian Ocean and the Persian Gulf and the role of the Islamic Republic among the Muslim nations.

During the meeting, the North Korean trade minister, by referring to the achievements of the Islamic revolution under the leadership of Imam Khomeyni, emphasized the expansion of economic relations between the two countries.

CLANDESTINE REPORTS ROK EXPERTS IN SHIRAZ

GF261754 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian to Iran 1330 GMT 26 Nov 82

[Text] According to reports reaching Radio Iran, the representatives of the National Resistance of Iran movement in Shiraz have informed us that more than 100 Korean petroleum and petrochemical experts sent by the ROK are living in Shiraz so that they can increase the production of the Shiraz petrochemical complex by repairing the installations and, by March 1984, reach the level of its pre-revolution output.

In lieu of this service and assistance to the Islamic Republic regime by the ROK, the pro-U.S. affiliation of which is obvious to all, the Islamic Republic regime has reciprocated by signing two agreements for the sale of its oil to the tune of 25 million barrels for 1982-83 and 40 million barrels for 1983-84 with the ROK. Thus, the ROK will have access to oil at low prices.

VELAYATI RECEIVES OUTGOING CHINESE AMBASSADOR

LD021854 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 2 Dec 82

[Text] The Chinese ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran at the end of his term of office in our country today met and conferred with Foreign Affairs Minister Velayati.

The Central News Unit reports that, in this meeting, Velayati said: Relations between Iran and China are several thousand years old and works of culture, art, literature and religion, which stem from an ancient civilization, can be seen in both countries.

Regarding China's role in the Third World, we consider our relations with China particularly important and we hope the imminent visit of a Chinese economic delegation to Iran will result in the further strengthening and expansion of relations between the two countries.

The Chinese ambassador also confirmed the mutual influence of the two countries' culture and arts and emphasized: Relations between Iran and China are ancient and the Silk Road is an example testifying this. He added: China can cooperate with the Islamic Republic of Iran, as an Islamic independent country, in various fields. Regarding existing common views, such as stands concerning the occupation of Lebanon by America, the occupation of Afghanistan by the Soviet Union and South Africa's apartheid policies, there are backgrounds for this cooperation. Expressing his sorrow on the termination of his mission in Iran, the Chinese ambassador said he hopes relations between the two countries will continue to expand.

MAJLIS SPEAKER MEETS WITH ENVOYS 5 DECEMBER

GF051424 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 5 Dec 82

[Excerpt] Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani met today with the Iranian ambassadors and heads of political representations to Romania, Belgium, the Soviet Union, Switzerland, and Pakistan.

During the meeting, Hashemi-Rafsanjani discussed the situation at our embassies in the aforementioned countries and issued directives.

REPORTS ON AFGHAN MUJAHIDIN ACTIVITIES

28 Nov Clash

GF281758 Tehran IRNA in English 1647 GMT 28 Nov 82

[Text] Zahedan, Nov. 28 IRNA -- Six joint Soviet and Afghan troops were killed today in Harirud District of Farah Province. Afghan Muslim mujahideen say the troops landed in the province by helicopter and were in the process of looting the property of the inhabitants of the province.

Following this incident, six MiG fighters retaliated by heavily bombarding the region. During the air raid, one Muslim struggler and nine civilians including some children were martyred.

Nangarhar Province Attack

GF281506 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 28 Nov 82

[Text] In a clash in Nangarhar Province in eastern Afghanistan, the Muslim Afghan mujahidin killed more than 70 of the Soviet-Afghan Government forces.

The mujahidin clashed with the Soviet-Afghan Government forces when the latter forces began an attack on the area of (Hazaras) in Nangarhar Province in retaliation for the mujahidin's annihilation of an infantry unit of the Kabul regime on 19 October. [as heard] The Soviet-Afghan Government forces launched their attack aided by tanks and armored personnel carriers.